

Appl. No. 09/979,530
Atty. Docket No. AA406M
Amdt. dated December 8, 2003
Reply to Office Action of 09/29/2003
Customer No. 27732

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ process of Claim 4 wherein: for preparing a coated granular detergent composition comprising the steps of:

- i) providing a granular detergent composition having granules containing detergent active materials;
- ii) passing said detergent granules to a coating mixer;
- iii) providing a coating solution of a water soluble coating material, wherein the water soluble coating material is a mixture of an anionic surfactant and a hydrotrope, wherein
 - a) the anionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of sodium linear alkyl benzene sulfonate, hydrophobic secondary alkyl sulfate and mixtures thereof;
 - b) the hydrotrope is selected from the group consisting of sodium xylene sulfonate, alkyldiphenyloxide disulfonate having an alkyl group chain length of from C1-C10, and mixtures thereof; and
- c) ~~wherein~~ the ratio of surfactant to hydrotrope is from about 70:30 to about 95:5;
- and
- iv) at least partially coating said granules in said coating mixer to form a coated detergent granular composition;

wherein said coated detergent composition has a geometric mean particle diameter of from about 400 microns to about 1500 microns with a geometric standard deviation of from about 1 to about 2.

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Claim 6 (currently amended): The process as claimed in Claim ~~4~~5, wherein said coating mixer is selected from the group consisting of low speed mixers, fluid bed mixers, and combinations thereof.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The process as claimed in ~~claim 4~~Claim 5 wherein said coating material further includes a detergent supplements such as brighteners, chelants, nonionic surfactants, co-builders and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The process as claimed in Claim ~~4-5~~ wherein said step of providing said aqueous coating solution further comprises the step of spraying said coating solution into said coating mixer.

Claim 9 (original): The process as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the amount of ~~water-soluble coating~~ solution is from about 1% to about 30%, by weight, of the detergent composition.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The process as claimed in Claim ~~4-5~~ further comprising the steps of mixing said coated detergent granules with a flow control aid to adhere said flow control aid to the surface of said granules.

Claim 11 (original): The process as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the flow control aid is an inorganic powder material and is selected from the group consisting of crystalline layered silicate, carbonate, sodium sulfate, aluminosilicate, magnesium silicate, calcium silicate, clay, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 12-14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (currently amended): ~~The A process of Claim 14 wherein, for preparing a coated granular detergent composition comprising the steps of:~~

- i) providing a granular detergent composition having granules containing detergent active materials;
- ii) passing said detergent granules to a coating mixer;
- iii) providing a coating solution of a water soluble coating material, wherein the water soluble coating material is a mixture of an anionic surfactant and a hydrotrope, wherein
 - a) the anionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of sodium linear alkyl benzene sulfonate, hydrophobic secondary alkyl sulfate and mixtures thereof; and

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b) the hydrotrope is selected from the group consisting of sodium xylene sulfonate, alkyldiphenyloxide disulfonate having an alkyl group chain length of from C1-C10, and mixtures thereof; and

c) ~~wherein~~ the ratio of surfactant to hydrotrope is from about 70:30 to about 95:5

and

iv) at least partially coating said granules in said coating mixer to form a coated detergent granular composition.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The process as claimed in Claim ~~12~~15, wherein said coating mixer is selected from the group consisting of low speed mixers, fluid bed mixers, and combinations thereof.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The process as claimed in Claim ~~12~~15 further comprising the steps of mixing said coated detergent granules with a flow control aid to adhere said flow control aid to the surface of said granules.

Claim 18 (original): The process as claimed in Claim 17 wherein the inorganic powder material ~~and is~~ selected from the group consisting of crystalline layered silicate, carbonate, sodium sulfate, aluminosilicate, magnesium silicate, calcium silicate, clay, undersized detergent particles and mixtures thereof.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A granular detergent composition produced by the process of Claim ~~12~~5.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A granular detergent composition produced by the process of Claim ~~12~~15.